

### TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ARTHUR ARNETT

• Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Pastor Arthur Arnett as he retires from Aurora Avenue Bible Church after decades of faithful service to his congregation and community.

Pastor Arnett spent many of the early years of his life in Des Moines, IA, where his father served as the pastor of Bethel Bible Church, later to be renamed Aurora Avenue Bible Church. Even at a young age, Pastor Arnett demonstrated his passion for service by volunteering for any needed tasks around the church. After graduating from high school, Pastor Arnett studied at the Prairie Bible Institute and worked in a variety of jobs, including truckdriving, mechanical contracting, and cooking. While holding these positions, Pastor Arnett's love of ministry shone through as he discussed and shared his knowledge of the Bible with many. In 1968, Pastor Arnett was called to military service and trained in aviation. Shortly before leaving for a year of service in Vietnam, Pastor Arnett married his wife, Connie Ray, in Tip-ton, IA. After returning from Vietnam, Pastor Arnett once again devoted his life to ministry and served congregations in Colorado and Kansas. In 1976, Pastor Arnett joined the Seaman's International Christian Association, where he was able to minister to thousands of seamen from all over the world over the course of 12 years.

Pastor Arnett was then called back to his home church in Des Moines, IA, where he began ministering on July 8, 1988. And on July 8, 2018—exactly 30 years later—Pastor Arnett will retire from the pastorate at Aurora Avenue Bible Church. After three decades as a pastor and many more years as a volunteer, Pastor Arnett has been able to deliver thousands of messages and touch countless lives through his faithful service to his community and congregation.

I ask my colleagues to join me as I proudly recognize Pastor Arthur Arnett, an Iowan whose lifelong devotion to service epitomizes the great American ideals of hard work, duty, and dedication.●

### REMEMBERING CHARLES MARTIN "C.M." NEWTON

• Mr. JONES. Mr. President, today with deep sadness, but also with reverence, I wish to remember Charles Martin "C.M." Newton, who died on Monday, June 4, 2018. C.M. Newton was one of the most influential coaches in college sports, whose skills I was fortunate to witness firsthand during my time as an undergraduate student at the University of Alabama. Coach Newton integrated the Alabama Crimson Tide men's basketball team in 1969 and led them to three Southeastern Conference, SEC, titles from 1974–1976. He also led the Vanderbilt University Commodores to the Sweet Sixteen in

the 1988 NCAA Tournament before leaving to lead the athletic department at the University of Kentucky, his alma mater. At Kentucky, he not only continued the Wildcat tradition of winning NCAA men's basketball championships, he once again broke down barriers by hiring the first Black women's and men's coaches in UK history.

C.M. Newton was born in Rockwood, TN, on February 2, 1930. As a student at the University of Kentucky, he played on the baseball team, as well as the 1951 championship-winning men's basketball team. He began his coaching career at Transylvania University before moving to Alabama and, later, Vanderbilt. In addition to coaching, he served as an assistant SEC commissioner. After leading Alabama to three conference titles and six postseason visits, he headed to Vanderbilt in 1981, before returning to Kentucky in 1989. His success as a basketball coach and as an athletic director led him to oversee the 1992 and 1996 Olympic men's basketball team rosters, which included the famous 1992 "Dream Team" led by Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, as well as Charles Barkley, an Alabama native.

On a personal note, I have looked up to Coach Newton since before I ever set foot on campus at the University of Alabama. In May 1972, he spoke at a Birmingham Kiwanis Club luncheon where I received the Youth of the Year Award during my senior year of high school. He spoke of leadership, of integrity, and of the need to fulfill the promise of America. He challenged all of the students in attendance that day to be the best we could be for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Forty-six years later, I can remember his advice just as clearly as the day he gave it. I hope, in some way, we have each lived up to his challenge.

Years later, Coach Newton went on to receive the John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997, an annual award given to an individual who has contributed significantly to the sport of basketball, and was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

My wife, Louise, and I extend our sincerest condolences to Coach Newton's wife, Nancy, his three children, and the entire extended community of athletes and fans on whom he made a positive impact. His legacy lives on in each of us.●

### TRIBUTE TO TEX WILLIAMS

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a Mountain State coaching legend from Raleigh County, Tex Williams. He is as legendary and as influential in West Virginia as two of his best friends, Jerry West and Logan High School Coaching legend Willie Akers.

Good coaches are able to show you what it takes to succeed in the game. Special coaches are able to put that

human touch to it and go a step beyond to have a positive impact on your life. Tex was able to capture both. He was the longtime coach at St. Albans and also served as coach at Vinson High School, Nitro High School, the University of Charleston, Alderson-Broadus, and the Charleston Gunners of the CBA. He was a star athlete in all sports, and has coached on every level—high school, college, and pro basketball—and won more than 500 games in his career.

In 2014, I had the privilege of congratulating Tex upon the opening of the Tex Williams Museum in Artie, WV. There, the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame member for both baseball and basketball and acclaimed coach's legacy is on display, housing 40,000 photos he collected throughout his long career. Making it even more special, the Tex Williams Museum is housed in the old post office building his father helped build and where his mother worked for 43 years.

Tex learned early on that sports can make you into so much more than a successful athlete if you have the right attitude. There is no greater achievement than to be in a position to give back to the community that helped shape who you are, and that is what we are celebrating today by honoring Tex. He started the Hoops Classic high school basketball tournament, which is played every year at the Charleston Civic Center. So many student-athletes have been inspired by Tex and have gone forward to build successful careers for themselves in our home State. Tex started the West Virginia Legends Sports Banquet 9 years ago, which reunites former players and coaches who once starred in West Virginia high school and college athletics. Tex has not only influenced and inspired student athletes for decades, but he has passed his knowledge and tradition of coaching excellence to his son, Adam, who also holds a strong legacy as a player and coach.

Tex is a perfect example of what makes West Virginia so very unique and special. Our people have this can-do spirit, a neighborly love that is unrelenting, and we are all grounded by the same core principle: to help others be the best they can be and to never forget where you came from. As I always say, if you can count your blessings, you can share your blessings, and Tex has embodied that sentiment beautifully.

Again, it is an honor to recognize the outstanding achievements of Tex Williams and all he has done for countless student athletes across our home State.●

### TRIBUTE TO JOHN HITT

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize my friend and esteemed president of the University of Central Florida, John Hitt. On June 30, John will step down as president after 26 years.